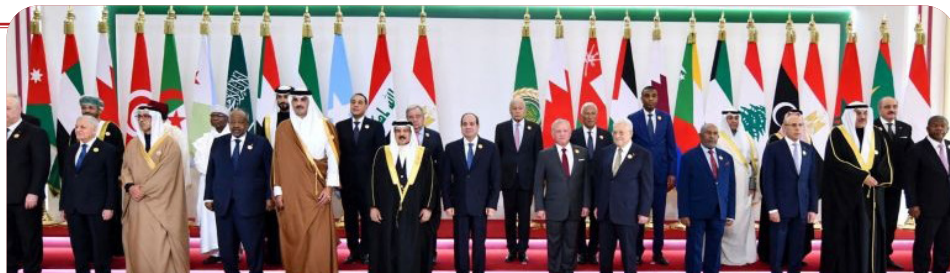


Politics

Arab League's emergency summit adopts Egyptian draft statement aimed at rebuilding Gaza



The emergency Arab summit held on Tuesday in Cairo adopted the Egyptian initiative for the reconstruction of Gaza, while participating leaders reaffirmed their rejection of the displacement of Palestinians from the territory following the Israeli war of genocide.

In a joint press conference with Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa, the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, said that "the summit has adopted an Arab plan for the reconstruction of Gaza in specific phases."

Aboul Gheit added that the plan "also outlines a new security and political framework for Gaza and maintains the connection between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip," emphasizing that the summit's goal was to reaffirm the Arab rejection of Palestinian displacement.

For his part, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, in his speech before Arab leaders, said that "the foundations for Gaza's recovery are not just cement but dignity, stability, and the rejection of ethnic cleansing."

He added that "there can be no justice without accountability, and no sustainable reconstruction without a clear and comprehensive political horizon," calling for all efforts to prevent the resumption of fighting in Gaza.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) welcomed the convening of the Arab summit amid ongoing Israeli aggression and plans for extermination and displacement, viewing it as the beginning of "an advanced stage of Arab and Islamic alignment with the just Palestinian cause."

During the summit, Presidential Council's

Head Mohammad al-Menfi called for a unified stance rejecting all schemes aimed at uprooting the Palestinian people from their land or forcing them to flee, stressing the rejection of any plans to empty Gaza of its residents.

Al-Menfi urged a unified Arab will, supported by the positions of friendly nations, to move toward the second phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement, halt the machinery of aggression and extermination against the people of Gaza, secure the release of all hostages, prisoners, and detainees, and ensure the entry of humanitarian aid. He also emphasized that the responsibility for Gaza's reconstruction, which has suffered widespread destruction and genocide, should be undertaken by Arabs with the support of the international community.

Politics



Belgassim Haftar visits Italy, meets with Foreign Minister

The Director General of the so-called "Libya Development and Reconstruction Fund," Belgassim Haftar, agreed with Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani to establish specialized technical committees to oversee the implementation of agreed-upon projects and to develop executive frameworks for a joint work strategy between the two countries.

The meeting took place on Wednesday at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, in the presence of officials from the ministry, according to a statement published by the Libya Development and Reconstruction Fund on its Facebook page.

According to the Fund, Belgassim and Tajani discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in development and reconstruction, particularly in the health, education, agriculture, infrastructure, transportation, and air cargo sectors.

The discussions also focused on resuming direct flights between Libya and Italy, a key issue in strengthening economic and diplomatic ties between the two nations.

Politics

Hammad slaps restrictions on his government's media after Hannibal Gaddafi's release rumors



The Head of the parallel government, Osama Hammad, instructed all ministers, department heads, and public agency leaders, not to publish news or statements related to domestic and foreign political affairs without prior approval from the Communications and Media Department at the Prime Minister's Office.

The statement stressed that this measure would be closely monitored by the Prime Minister's Office to prevent "errors that may occur and, in some cases, cannot be rectified."

On Wednesday, the official account of the Ministry of Justice under Hammad's government published news claiming that Lebanese authorities had released Hannibal, the son of Muammar Gaddafi. However, the post was later deleted after his lawyer denied the claim, confirming that he was still in detention.

Politics

Haftar frees Nigerien opposition leader following Macron's diplomatic pressure



Khalifa Haftar has released Nigerien opposition figure Mahamadou Saleh, days after his arrest in southern Libya, reportedly following pressure from French President Emmanuel Macron. Italian news agency Nova cited Nigerien sources claiming that Saleh's release was influenced by Rissa Ag Boula, a prominent Tuareg leader based in Paris, who holds significant sway in the Sahel region. Saleh, who led an armed group in Libya's Qatrun region for two years, is believed to possess crucial intelligence on opposition movements against Niger's military junta, which has Russian backing. According to Libyan sources, Macron urged Haftar during a meeting in Paris on February 26 not to extradite Saleh to the ruling military council in Niamey. The junta has faced international isolation since seizing power

in a July 2023 coup that ousted President Mohamed Bazoum.

Nova suggested that Saleh's release could shift the regional power dynamic, potentially strengthening Niger's opposition forces while adding further instability to the Niamey military leadership, which is under mounting international scrutiny.

Saleh's detention took place amid clashes in Qatrun between forces aligned with Haftar's son, Saddam Haftar, and those loyal to Hassan Al-Zadama. The dispute reportedly erupted after Al-Zadama's forces refused to surrender their arms to military police, leading to violent confrontations, destruction of homes, and disruptions to key trade routes linking Libya, Niger, and Chad.

Politics



Al-Haddad confirms to UN envoy his support for steps preserving Libya's sovereignty

The Chief of General Staff of the Libyan Army, Lieutenant General Muhammad Al-Haddad, reaffirmed his support for steps that would preserve Libya's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity.

This came during his first meeting with the new UN envoy, Hanna Tetteh, on Wednesday at the General Staff headquarters in the capital, Tripoli, according to a post on the General Staff's Facebook page. According to the statement, Al-Haddad welcomed the UN envoy, wishing her success in her mission while also praising the efforts of previous UN envoys in supporting the political process in Libya. The statement cited Tetteh as commending "the efforts of the Chief of General Staff in resolving disputes to achieve stability and peace," expressing her hope that the United Nations would play a positive role in supporting Libya and assisting the Libyan people in achieving their aspirations for stability and development. Since her arrival in Tripoli to begin her duties, Tetteh has held several meetings with Libyan officials and foreign diplomats to review the latest developments in the Libyan crisis, while the UN mission is preparing to facilitate a national dialogue for various Libyan parties and key stakeholders.

Politics



Hannibal Gaddafi's lawyer denies reports of his release by parallel government

Hannibal Gaddafi's lawyer denied the claim made by the Ministry of Justice in the parallel government regarding his client's release. On Tuesday, the Ministry of Justice in the Libyan parallel government announced the release of Hannibal Gaddafi, who has been detained by Lebanese authorities since 2015. However, the ministry later deleted the news from its Facebook page without providing any explanation. In its deleted announcement, the ministry did not specify the mechanism of Gaddafi's release or any subsequent steps but emphasized that it had worked to ensure the application of the law and provide all legal and humanitarian guarantees for Gaddafi's son. Meanwhile, the Lebanese authorities have not issued any statement on the matter.

Politics



Gaddafi's widow files defamation lawsuit in Paris against "France 5" channel

The widow of Muammar Gaddafi, Safia Farkash, has filed a defamation lawsuit in Paris against "France 5" after the channel aired a documentary that she claims distorts her family's image, according to a statement by her lawyer Antoine Sicaldi on Tuesday.

The lawsuit, which was filed on Monday with the Paris judicial court, targets the documentary that aired on December 1, 2024, alleging that it "masquerades as an exposé of the late leader's personality and regime."

The complainants argue that the statements in the documentary represent "a perfect accumulation of defamatory remarks against a deceased man and his relatives." The lawsuit specifically cites statements made by individuals interviewed in the documentary, claiming that they repeated "disgusting claims without caution."

The complaint asserts that allegations about the Gaddafi's character were presented "without any detail, in a deliberately harmful manner," denouncing other terms used in the film as "excessive and distorted." Lawyer Antoine Sicaldi told Agence France-Presse (AFP): "From now on, the Gaddafi family will respond to any false claims made against Muammar."

Economy



Libyan banks roll out interest-free loans

Several Libyan banks have begun offering interest-free loans to eligible customers, following directives from the Central Bank of Libya. The initiative provides loans worth 60% of the basic salary, aiming to support individuals amid ongoing economic pressures.

Among the participating banks, the National Commercial Bank announced that customers can access the loan through its MobiMal app or via text messages, streamlining the process for digital banking users. Similarly, North Africa Bank confirmed loan accessibility via its Nap Mobile app, provided customers update the application and activate the "Mat7sebhash" service.

Meanwhile, Al-Nouran Bank opted for an in-branch approach, requiring applicants to visit its nationwide locations with a salary certificate and a commitment form to secure the loan.

Economy



UK stresses support for developing Libya's economy and oil sector

The United Kingdom (UK) has reaffirmed its support for the National Oil Corporation (NOC) and efforts to develop the oil sector as well as boost the Libyan economy, according to a statement published by the NOC on its Facebook page.

This was expressed by the British Ambassador to Libya, Martin Longden, during his meeting on Tuesday with the acting Chairman of the NOC, Masoud Suleiman, at the corporation's headquarters in Tripoli.

The NOC indicated that the meeting discussed ways to enhance cooperation between Libya and the UK in various energy sectors, touching on the public bidding round for oil exploration, which the NOC officially launched on Monday evening during a ceremony that attracted the attention of major global oil companies, as well as heads and members of diplomatic missions in Libya.

The NOC added that Ambassador Longden reaffirmed during the meeting "his country's support for the National Oil Corporation in achieving its ambitions to develop the Libyan oil sector and revitalize the Libyan economy."

Libya's imports from Brazil increased in January 2025

The Brazilian Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services announced that Brazilian exports to Libya increased by 22.3% in January 2025 compared to January 2024.

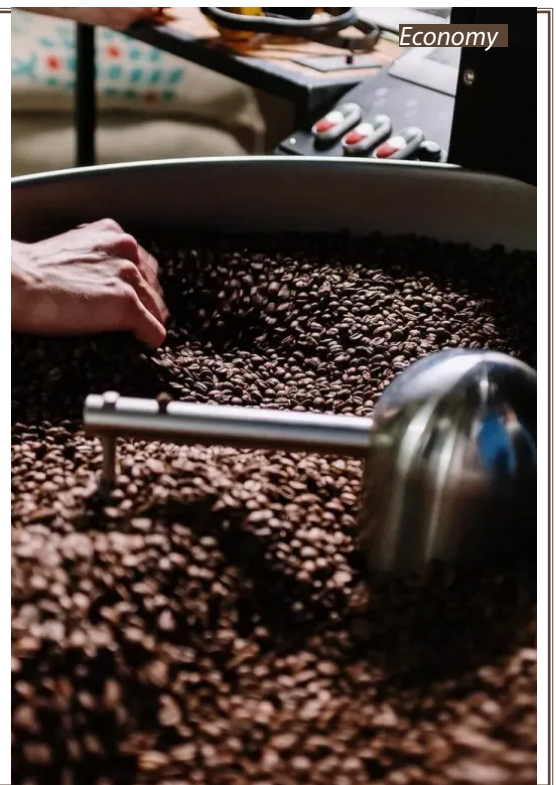
The Brazilian Arab News Agency reported that the value of Brazilian exports to Libya amounted to 60.2 million US dollars in last January compared to 49.2 million US dollars in the same month last year, noting that the largest part of exports was food products.

The agency explained that the main product exported to Libya in last January was beef, with a total of 16.4 million US dollars, an increase of

112.9% compared to the 7.7 million dollars exported in January 2024. It added that the Brazilian Association of Meat Packing Companies (Abraf-rigo) confirmed in a statement that beef sales to Libya grew strongly at the beginning of this year.

While sugar came in second place on the list of major Brazilian exports to Libya this year, achieving 14.1 million US dollars, according to the statement. Chicken meat exports also witnessed an expansion in terms of value, as the total value of exports in last January amounted to 12.8 million US dollars, compared to 8.8 million dollars in January of 2024.

Economy



Economy

NOC announces new bidding round for oil exploration



The Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Masoud Suleiman, launched on Monday public bidding round for oil exploration after a hiatus of 17 years.

This announcement took place at the Rixos Complex in Tripoli, in the presence of the Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity, Abdul Hamid Dbeibah, the Minister of Oil, Khalifa Abdul Sadiq, and the Minister of State for Communication and Political Affairs, Walid Al-Lafi. Masoud said in a speech he delivered during the launching ceremony of the round that more than two-thirds of the Libyan lands are waiting for someone to explore the abundant wealth hidden in its depths.

He explained that what he described as the greatness of this event brings to mind the great sacrifices made by the workers of the National Oil Corporation, to be crowned today under the umbrel-

la of the Government of National Unity with this achievement that promises all good for Libya and Libyans.

Masoud indicated that exploration in new areas does not only mean producing oil and gas, but it is a source of life in those areas and their development, which will contribute to supporting the private sector that will participate in providing support services for exploration and drilling work, thus increasing the national income, in addition to providing large areas of new job opportunities for young Libyans looking for work. He explained that the return of major companies to exploration in Libya will enhance Libya's position among the world's oil countries, and will add new reserves of oil and gas that will compensate for the quantities produced previously, which will contribute to increasing Libya's oil and gas production according to the NOC's plan.

Economy



NOC Chairman discusses boosting production with Arabian Gulf Oil Company

The Chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Masoud Suleiman, has held an extensive meeting at the headquarters of the Arabian Gulf Oil Company with its president, Mohammed Belqasem bin Shatwan, and members of its management committee.

During the meeting, the NOC chairman emphasized the importance of maintaining efforts to increase production rates in the company's oil fields.

He reaffirmed the NOC full support and commitment to providing all necessary resources to achieve this goal, highlighting the need to create a suitable work environment for employees to enhance productivity.

Additionally, the meeting addressed production fluctuations and the company's urgent need for spare parts to maintain stable production levels.

Economy



Mellitah Company contains leak from Sabratha offshore wells in Bahr Al-Salam field

Mellitah Oil & Gas Company announced that it had successfully contained a hydraulic control fluid leak at the eastern well complex of the submerged wells at the Sabratha offshore platform in Bahr Al-Salam field.

The Company said that the leak posed a risk of disrupting production operations at the eastern complex, potentially leading to the loss of approximately 160 million cubic feet of natural gas per day. This could have resulted in shortages in natural gas supply to the coastal pipeline, which feeds power plants, cement factories, the iron and steel plant, and other facilities.

The Company's management praised the technical teams who worked tirelessly, day and night, to ensure the continuity of production operations at the platform, aiming to provide the necessary quantities of natural gas for the local market.

Education

Midterm exams for second semester of primary and secondary education kick off

The midterm exams for the second semester of the school year 2024-2025 began on Sunday morning across the country.

Students in the primary and secondary education stages are taking their midterm exams within their educational institutions, under the supervision of subject teachers and exam coordinators in schools.

Minister of Education of the Government of National Unity, Dr. Musa Al-Maqrif called on students to divide their time and develop a suitable study plan that suits each student's ability to memorize and understand in this blessed month, and to get enough sleep and avoid staying up late; so that they can focus while taking their exams.



Sports

Libya to play Angola at Tripoli International Stadium on March 20

On March 20, 2025, Tripoli International Stadium will host the match of the national football team against Angola, in the fifth round of the qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup.

The team will play its match against Angola with seven points after four rounds in the second place in the

group, which is led by Cameroon with eight points, Cape Verde with seven points, Angola with six points, Mauritius with four points, and Eswatini with zero points.

It is noteworthy that the national team will play Angola and Cameroon matches under the leadership of the

new Senegalese coach, Aliou Cisse, the former coach of the Senegalese national team from 2015 to 2024, who won the 2021 African Nations Championship with Senegal and was runner-up in the 2019 tournament and qualified with them for the World Cup in 2018, 2022.

Sports

Libyan Football Federation agrees deal with Senegalese Aliou Cissé for first team role

The Libyan Football Federation has reached an agreement with Senegalese coach Aliou Cissé to take over the task of technical director of the first national team.

The Vice President of the Libyan Federation, Fawzi Jaouda, said that the Federation entered into intensive negotiations with Aliou Cissé, the former technical director of the Senegalese national team, to take over the role of the coach of the national team.

Jaouda added, in a press statement, that the broad outlines of the contract have been agreed upon between the

two parties, while some details remain before the official announcement of his appointment as technical director of the Mediterranean Knights.

The Libyan Federation official said that an agreement has also been reached with Aliou Cissé to supervise the youth and junior teams, in addition to his duties as technical director of the first team. He explained that Aliou Cisse is expected to arrive in Libya on March 5, and he will choose the members of his assistant staff, while the Libyan Federation retains the right to appoint an assistant coach to the staff.



Sports

The African Minifootball Confederation announces general programme for Derna Championship

The Competitions Committee of the African Minifootball Confederation, headed by the Libyan, Bofakhra Al-Mishiti, has announced the general programme for the African Championship matches for the game, which will be held in Derna stadium next July.

The teams were divided into four

groups; the first group included Libya, Congo, Cameroon and Chad, while the second group included the teams of Tunisia, Morocco, Ghana and Benin. The third group included the teams of South Africa, Ivory Coast, Zambia and Uganda, and the fourth group included the teams of Mauritania, Nigeria, Guinea and Burkina Faso.



Health

Health and finance ministers discuss healthcare workers' settlements and promotions

Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of National Unity and Acting Minister of Health, Ramadan Abu Janah, has met with Minister of Finance Khaled Al-Mabrouk, to discuss settlements and promotions for healthcare workers and ways to ensure they receive their rights.

During the meeting, attended by several officials from both ministries, participants addressed the challenges facing recruited foreign healthcare

workers, emphasizing the need for a clear mechanism to register and regulate their status.

Both sides agreed to establish a unified system to integrate human resources management with budget management, ensuring procedural consistency, improving financial expenditure efficiency, sustaining resources, and creating a more organized working environment for healthcare workers.



Migration

Migrants stranded on North African offshore platform as conditions worsen

A group of 30 migrants stranded on an offshore platform in the Mediterranean, east of Tunisia, have gone without food for several days, with their health rapidly deteriorating, according to the emergency hotline service Alarm Phone.

The platform, located approximately 75 miles off Tunisia's coast, has been described as unsuitable for providing adequate care. The humanitarian group Sea-Watch, which conducted a reconnaissance visit, said the migrants had arrived aboard an inflatable boat, later seen tied to the structure. One person has reportedly died due to the harsh conditions, while others are suffering from severe hunger and ex-

haustion.

Aid organizations have called on Italian and Maltese authorities to intervene, arguing that the migrants are in international waters within both countries' search and rescue zones. "They have the right to be transferred to a safe port," a statement from Sea-Watch said.

Human rights groups have also warned that Shell, which owns the platform, and Amilcar Petroleum Operations, which operates it, could be complicit in rights violations if the migrants are forcibly returned to Libya or Tunisia. International law prohibits returning individuals to a country where they may face persecution or harm.



Analysis

The Rise of Private Oil Firms in Libya: Corruption or Power Shift

For decades, Libya's oil industry has been tightly controlled by the state-run National Oil Corporation (NOC), which managed production, exports, and revenue distribution. However, in a dramatic shift, private oil firms like Arkenu Oil Company have emerged, challenging the NOC's monopoly. Arkenu, operating from eastern Libya, has exported over \$600 million worth of crude oil since May 2024, signaling a potential transformation in the country's energy sector.

While some view this as a necessary modernization of Libya's oil industry, others see it as a politically motivated power play that could further entrench divisions and destabilize an already fragile economy. The rise of private oil entities raises critical concerns about revenue allocation, governance, and the role of military actors in Libya's economic affairs.

Who Controls Libya's Oil?

Oil has long been Libya's economic life-line, accounting for over 90% of state revenue. Historically, the NOC functioned as the central authority regulating oil production and ensuring that proceeds were deposited into the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) for national distribution. However, Libya's prolonged political division—between the internationally recognized government in Tripoli (West) and the eastern-based administration allied with Khalifa Haftar's forces—has created an opportunity for alternative players to step in.

Arkenu Oil Company, operating under the influence of eastern authorities, represents a direct challenge to the NOC's supremacy. By exporting oil independently, it bypasses traditional state-controlled channels, raising fundamental questions: Who controls Libya's oil wealth? Where do the revenues from private oil sales go? What does this mean for Libya's economic future?

The Role of Military Figures in Oil Trade

One of the most controversial aspects of Libya's privatized oil industry is the involvement of military figures. Arkenu's operations are closely linked to Haftar's forces and family, particularly Saddam Haftar. This development suggests that the oil trade is not just about business—it is also about consolidating political and military power.

By gaining direct access to oil revenues, Haftar's forces in the east no longer rely on Tripoli's financial system to fund its operations. This shift could have profound consequences: Financial Autonomy for the East: If eastern authorities can independently generate and control oil revenue, they might establish a separate economic system, deepening Libya's division. Less Leverage for Tripoli: The Government of National Unity (GNU) in Tripoli traditionally used oil revenues as a bargaining tool in negotiations with eastern factions. If the east can sustain itself financially, Tripoli's influence diminishes. Risk of Parallel Economies: Competing oil sales could lead to the establishment of rival financial institutions, further fragmenting Libya's economy.

The Impact on Libya's Economy

While some argue that private oil firms introduce competition and efficiency, others warn of economic instability and corruption. Key concerns include: Loss of Centralized Revenue: The NOC ensures that oil income is deposited into the Central Bank of Libya, which then distributes funds for salaries, subsidies, and infrastructure projects. With private firms controlling exports, billions in oil revenue could go unaccounted for, depriving the state of essential funds. Risk of Sanctions: If private firms violate international agreements, Libya could face sanctions or restrictions from the UN and Western governments, deterring foreign investment. Fueling Armed Conflict: Oil revenue has historically funded militias and armed groups. If different factions con-

petition for oil fields and ports could escalate into armed conflict. Foreign Involvement: The rise of private oil firms also attracts foreign players. Countries like Russia, the UAE, and Egypt, which have supported Haftar in the past, might strengthen their presence in Libya's energy sector, leading to further geopolitical tensions.

What's Next for Libya's Oil Industry?

The growing influence of private oil firms suggests that Libya's energy landscape is entering a new, unpredictable phase. Several scenarios could unfold: Legal and Diplomatic Challenges: The Tripoli-based government may push for international recognition of the NOC's authority, pressuring buyers to reject oil from private firms. Increased Tensions Between East and West: With Arkenu and other private firms gaining traction, Libya's political divide may deepen, leading to economic fragmentation. Negotiations for a Unified Oil Policy: Some stakeholders may advocate for a compromise between the NOC and private firms, allowing for regulated private-sector participation while maintaining state oversight.

A Fragile Balance

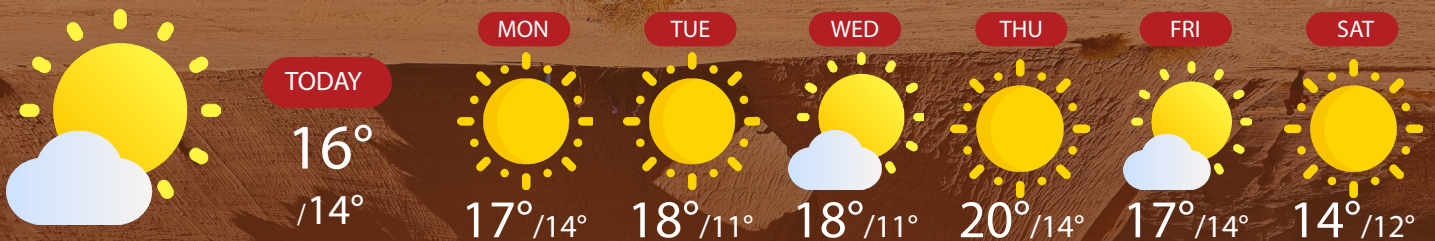
Libya's oil industry is at a crossroads. The emergence of private firms like Arkenu Oil Company challenges the traditional state monopoly, raising both economic opportunities and political risks. While privatization could modernize the sector, the lack of transparency, political rivalries, and military involvement make this transition highly volatile.

If Libya fails to establish a clear regulatory framework, the unchecked rise of private oil firms could lead to economic chaos, political fragmentation, and renewed conflict. As Libya navigates this uncertain future, the question remains: Will the privatization of oil be a step toward progress, or a path toward further division and corruption?

Photo of the Week



Tripoli Weather Forecast



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